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ISRAEL AIDES AGREE TO AID ON SPY CASE

They and U.S. Officials Hope
to Curb Damage to Ties

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 27 — American and Israeli officials said today they had agreed to cooperate on investigating the case of Jonathan Jay Pollard, a civilian Navy employee who was arrested on espionage charges Thursday outside the Israeli Embassy here.

The officials made the statements as both governments were clearly seeking to limit the damage to their overall relations caused by accusations that Mr. Pollard was supplying secrets to Israel even though both governments had an informal arrangement not to spy on the other.

Charles E. Redman, a State Department spokesman, said "we have been assured of the full cooperation of the Israeli Government" in investigating the Pollard affair. He said that the United States expected that the Justice Department "would have the opportunity to interview any Israelis who may be involved."

Report on Recall of Diplomats

But there was considerable confusion today as to whether Israel had recalled some diplomats in connection with the case. Both the State Department spokesman and the Israeli Ambassador strongly denied that any diplomats had returned.

But Israel Radio and an Israeli in Washington not connected with the government said two had returned to Israel, one of whom was a member of the

embassy staff here and the other attached to the Israeli consulate in New York. The source identified the two as Ilan Ravid, a scientific affairs attaché in Washington, and Yosef Yagur, who works in New York.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir have both sent messages to Secretary of State George P. Shultz stating that Israel's senior leadership was caught unaware by the affair and shared Mr. Shultz's desire to learn all the facts as soon as possible.

One Reagan Administration official said that agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation have already had some discussions with Israeli Embassy officials about Mr. Pollard.

But a law-enforcement official expressed unhappiness with the degree of cooperation shown so far by the Israelis. He said that the Israelis say they are conducting their own investigation and have not yet made anybody available to the Justice Department for interviews.

If any Israeli diplomats are involved in spying, it would be highly unusual for them to agree to be questioned, since most governments argue that their diplomatic immunity could be jeopardized by allowing diplomats to be interrogated.

In response to reports from Israel that a senior embassy official would soon be recalled, along with one or two others, Mr. Redman left the impression that the United States did not want Israel to recall any diplomats who might have knowledge of the Pollard case before they were interviewed by American officials.

"We have no information which would support that story," he said about the recall reports.

He said it was the "strong expectation" that Israel would cooperate in the investigation.

"We have been assured of complete and prompt, full cooperation of the Israeli Government," he said.

Late today, State Department and Israeli officials again said that they had no reason to believe any Israeli diplomat who might be connected to the Pollard case had left the country. "There is a lot of disinformation coming over Israeli radio," a State Department official said.

Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador to the United States, was called into the State Department this afternoon to meet with Michael H. Armacost, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. Mr. Armacost reportedly again stressed the importance of having Israel's full cooperation in the investigation and the Israeli Ambassador repeated his Government's desire to resolve the matter fully, an official said. Tonight Mr. Rosenne said of reports about the diplomats, "Nobody has left."

Israeli diplomats in Washington continued to express astonishment at the case. They said if there was spying done for Israel by Mr. Pollard, it was not authorized by regular government agencies. They pointed out the extensive cooperation now going on in the intelligence and military fields, with some of the most sensitive secrets dealing with the region routinely exchanged. They were concerned that the United States not seek to cut back on this exchange.

The affair has been given high priority by the Administration, in part because President Reagan learned of it suddenly as his Air Force One was only a few hours short of flying into Washington last Thursday after his Geneva summit meeting.

According to American officials, Mr. Reagan said to Mr. Shultz with surprise, "Why are they doing this." And Mr. Shultz had no explanation either.

On Friday, Mr. Shultz had a previously scheduled meeting with Moshe Arens, a minister without portfolio in the Israeli Cabinet, who had been Ambassador here from 1981 to 1983.

According to Mr. Arens, in an interview over Israeli radio, he and Mr. Shultz "are personal friends and he spent a long time with me on the same busy day of his return from Geneva."

"We discussed a great deal of issues and, I must say, he was as friendly and kind as ever," Mr. Arens said of Mr. Shultz. "However, at the end of our talk, he told me: 'Misha, I must discuss another issue with you.'"

"The best I could tell the Secretary of State is that I was no less astonished than he was," Mr. Arens said. "And I simply proposed that we wait before we formulate any position or react, that we wait until we learn what did or did not happen in this case."